

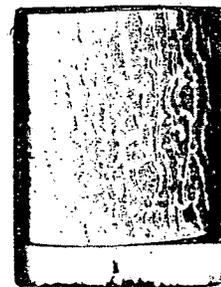
Bill -

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You asked if the JEC
Studies were consistent
with our classified
analysis. The attached
says yes.



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489-83

18 January 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM : Director of Soviet Analysis

SUBJECT : Recent Unclassified Agency Publications on Soviet Economy

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1. Action: None, for your information only.

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2. Background: The recently published CIA document, "USSR: Measures of Economic Growth and Development, 1950-80," is consistent with the Agency's classified analysis. It should be stressed, though, that this document is not primarily analytical. Its overriding purpose is to provide (a) complete documentation of the sources CIA uses in compiling its measures of Soviet GNP and (b) a complete explanation of the methodology used. It is hoped that publication of this document will lay to rest public criticism of the Agency for not fully disclosing in the past how its GNP figures were derived.

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3. CIA has previously published similar unclassified monographs--on GNP and real consumption, for example--though these have been more analytical than "USSR: Measures of Growth and Development, 1950-80." When issued by the Joint Economic Committee (JEC), these publications have been accompanied by JEC press releases. The latest press release differs from its predecessors only in being more detailed. All such press releases have been tailored to promote the political views or serve the political interests of the chairman of the JEC or of the issuing JEC subcommittee.

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4. Like "USSR: Measures of Economic Growth and Development, 1950-80," the unclassified version of Henry Rowen's briefing of the Joint Economic Committee on 1 December 1982 is consistent with the Agency's internal analysis of the Soviet economy. In fact, the classified and unclassified versions of the briefing differ from one another only in minor ways. Of the fewer than 10 changes, over half were editorial in nature. Only three involved deletion of classified material. [redacted]

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5. The press release that announced the issuance of the unclassified version of the briefing fit the standard mold of JEC press releases in reflecting the particular viewpoint of the chairman. [redacted]

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Soviet Economy**

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